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Both national and California human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) case reporting data show that African Americans are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, in 2002, AIDS was the leading cause of death among African American women ages 25-34 and the second leading cause of death for African American men ages 35-44. In 2002, AIDS was one of the top three causes of death for African American men ages 25-54 and African American women ages 25-44.¹

- Through December 31, 2005, there were an estimated 988,376 cases of AIDS in the United States; African Americans accounted for 40 percent of all AIDS cases.²
- In 2005, the rate of AIDS cases in the United States among African Americans was 59 per 100,000 population, more than three times greater than the rate for Hispanics (19.8 per 100,000) and more than nine times greater than the rate for Whites (6.3 per 100,000).³
- At the end of 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that over 60 percent of women living with AIDS, and 43 percent of all people living with AIDS in the United States were African Americans, the highest for any racial/ethnic group.⁴
- African Americans accounted for 50 percent of all AIDS cases diagnosed in 2004 in the United States, yet African Americans make up only 12 percent of the population.⁵
- In California, as of December 31, 2006, there were 143,946 cumulative reported AIDS cases; 25,590 of these cases were African Americans. This represents over 18 percent of all AIDS cases, yet African Americans constitute less than 7 percent of California's population.⁶
- African Americans represent nearly 19 percent (11,534) of all people living with AIDS in California as of December 31, 2006. Seventy-nine percent (9,135) are African American men, while 21 percent (2,399) are African American women.⁷



- From April through December 31, 2006, there were 7,778 reported cases of HIV infection in California (in the state's new reporting system), and African Americans accounted for 17 percent (1,324) of all reported cases.⁸
- African Americans accounted for 17.4 percent of HIV counseling and testing clients in California's publicly funded test sites from 2001-2003, yet accounted for 25.8 percent of those who received a positive HIV test result.
- African Americans are more likely to face challenges associated with risk for HIV infection including socioeconomic problems related to poverty, increased rates of sexually transmitted diseases, issues related to substance use, and especially for women, being unaware their male partners could be at risk.⁹
- California Assembly Bill 1142 (Chapter 403, Dymally, Statutes of 2005) created a Statewide African American HIV/AIDS Initiative to coordinate prevention and health care services and increase the capacity of service providers in addressing the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS in African Americans. The California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (CDHS/OA) is directing \$400,000 per year in specially designated prevention funds to support the continuing work of the initiative beginning January 2007.

To learn about California's HIV/AIDS programs and data, visit the CDHS/OA Web site at www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS. For information on HIV/AIDS services, visit the AIDS Hotline at www.AIDShotline.org or call (800) 367-AIDS (2437).

¹ National Center for Health Statistics. *National Vital Statistics Report: Deaths: Leading Causes for 2002*, Vol. 53, No. 17.

² HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report-Cases of HIV Infection and AIDS in the United States, 2005, Vol. 17, p.12.

³ Ibid., p. 14.

⁴ Ibid., p. 21, 22.

⁵ Ibid., p. 6.

⁶ CDHS/OA, Monthly Summary of California AIDS Cases, December 2006. California Department of Finance, *California Current Population Survey Report: March 2005*, August 2006.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ CDHS/OA, Monthly Summary of California HIV Cases, December 2006.

⁹ CDC: HIV/AIDS among African Americans, February 2005.